

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

8. (Amended) A hearing aid according to claim 4, wherein the controlling means comprises switching means adapted to control the operation mode of the hearing aid, the switching means being responsive to the deflection of the stiff lever.

11. (Amended) A hearing aid according to claim 4, wherein the stiffness of the lever is large enough to convey at least a pressure force of 5.0 Newton to the switch element.

13. (Amended) A hearing aid according to claim 9, wherein said switching means are adapted to switch an electrical signal between two predetermined levels, the controlling means being adapted to control the operation mode in response to a change in the electrical signal level provided by the switching means.

14. (Amended) A hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the controlling means are adapted to control a power on/off operation mode of the hearing aid.

15. (Amended) A hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the controlling means are adapted to select a particular pre-set listening program between a number of pre-set listening programs in the hearing aid.

16. (Amended) A hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the controlling means are adapted to control a telecoil/microphone operation mode of the hearing aid.

17. A hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the controlling means further comprises an integrated circuit.

18. (Amended) A hearing aid adapted to be positioned within an ear canal of an ear of a user, the hearing aid comprising means for manually removing the hearing aid from the canal, the removing means being fastened to the hearing aid and extending from the hearing aid toward an auricle of the ear, characterized in that the removing means comprise a stiff member adapted to remain in essentially the same predetermined position at least during normal deflection of said stiff member.